

MY WATER STAINS LAUNDRY RED OR BROWN

LIKELY PROBLEM	HEALTH CONCERN?	OTHER CLUES & CONSIDERATIONS	CONFIRM IT	POSSIBLE FIXES	LICENSE NEEDED FOR FIX?	STATE FUNDS?	MORE INFO
Iron See Iron in Drinking Water brochure.	No, iron is a necessary mineral for human health. There is a nuisance standard for iron based on staining, appearance, taste and odor problems. See the Department of Health Fact Sheets for iron or manganese.	Does your water appear red? Are there red stains in tubs and sinks? There are two types of iron in water: clear water or soluble iron; or red water or insoluble iron. Treatment methods depend on which type of iron is present and at what level. See Iron in Drinking Water brochure. Iron Bacteria can be associated with iron problems. If iron is present, often manganese is, too.	Test your water for iron, manganese, iron bacteria, pH, alkalinity and hardness. Contact a laboratory certified by DNR to test for iron and manganese .	Install Dept. of Commerce approved water treatment device. Devices are listed under contaminants they will remove. See Iron in Drinking Water brochure for treatment options. Water softeners will remove iron in some cases. Be sure the chosen treatment device is capable of removing the amount and type of iron you have in your water. Also make sure it is capable of removing any manganese present.	Yes, treatment devices must be installed by licensed plumbers; or in some cases may be installed by the owner/occupant of a single family private residence. See plumbing license laws .	No	University of Wisconsin Extension National Ground Water Association Water Systems Council National Sanitation Foundation See Iron Bacteria brochure.
				Change the screen depth or well casing depth in your well (without making your well too shallow).	Yes, licensed Well Drillers		See above. Talk to your neighbors about their wells to find out if you can reduce iron by changing your screen or casing depth.